

SPECIFICATION:

Page 8, first paragraph, replace with the following new paragraph:

FIG 3 describes the steps in an exemplary case that could be followed for creating an accurate and generalized model classifier. In data collection facial images of people of different age groups were collected. All these images were appropriately labeled with the age category of the person in the image. These labels were used as ground truths to be used during the training 301 of the classifiers 302. This data set was divided into three parts – the training set, the bootstrapping set and the testing set all of them mutually disjoint. Histogram equalization and brightness gradient removal were used as part of the preprocessing for all the images in order to get rid of all brightness information that might affect the performance of the classifiers. Principal component analysis performed as a feature extraction- Principal component analysis performed as a feature extraction method. Different feature extraction methods can be used to generate different classifiers, for example the gray-scale value of the image pixels, and non negative matrix factorization. Besides increasing accuracy by removing very specific information about the images the feature extraction method also improves the computational speed of the classifier that is an important criteria for a real time classifier system.